

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION

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**JOE HAND PROMOTIONS, INC.,** as  
Broadcast Licensee of the **February 2, 2008**  
**UFC #81** Program,

Plaintiff,

-against-

CAROL WILHELM and MICHAEL WILHELM,  
Individually, and d/b/a RUMORS ON GRAND,  
and RUMORS ON GRAND,

Defendants.  
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**COMPLAINT**

Civil Action No.

FILED: DECEMBER 1, 2008  
08CV6838  
JUDGE CASTILLO  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE KEYS  
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Plaintiff, **JOE HAND PROMOTIONS, INC.**, (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), by their  
attorneys, LONSTEIN LAW OFFICE, P.C. complaining of the defendants herein respectfully sets  
forth and alleges, upon information and belief, as follows:

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

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1. This action is brought pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 553, 605, et seq.
  2. This Court has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1331, which states that the district courts shall have original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States.
  3. Upon information and belief, venue is proper in this court because, inter alia, all defendants reside within the State of Illinois (28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 93(a)(1)).

4. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the parties in this action as a result of the defendants' wrongful acts hereinafter complained of which violated plaintiff's rights as distributor of the transmission signal of the fight as hereinafter set forth at length. The defendants' wrongful acts consisted of the interception or tortious conversion of said property of plaintiff within the control of the plaintiff in the State of Illinois.

#### **THE PARTIES**

5. The plaintiff is a Pennsylvania Corporation with its principal place of business located at 407 East Pennsylvania Boulevard, Feasterville, Pennsylvania 19053.

6. Upon information and belief the defendant, CAROL WILHELM, resides at 35618 N. Marine Drive, Fox Lake, IL 60020-1916.

7. Upon information and belief the defendant, MICHAEL WILHELM, resides at 35618 N. Marine Drive, Fox Lake, IL 60020-1916.

8. Upon information and belief the defendants, CAROL WILHELM and MICHAEL WILHELM, Individually, and as officers, directors, shareholders and/or principals of RUMORS ON GRAND, of that they are doing business as RUMORS ON GRAND.

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9. Upon information and belief the defendants, CAROL WILHELM and MICHAEL WILHELM, were the individuals with supervisory capacity and control over the activities occurring within the establishment on February 2, 2008.

10. Upon information and belief the defendants, CAROL WILHELM and MICHAEL WILHELM, received a financial benefit from the operations of RUMORS ON GRAND, on February 2, 2008.

11. Upon information and belief, the defendant, RUMORS ON GRAND, is a business entity, the exact nature of which is unknown, having its principal place of business at 32 East Grand Avenue, Fox Lake, IL 60020.

12. Upon information and belief, the defendant, RUMORS ON GRAND, is a Domestic Corporation, incorporated and licensed to do business in the State of Illinois.

13. Upon information and belief, the defendant, RUMORS ON GRAND, is a partnership licensed to do business in the State of Illinois.

14. Upon information and belief, the defendant, RUMORS ON GRAND, is a sole proprietorship licensed to do business in the State of Illinois.

### **COUNT I**

15. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all of the allegations contained in paragraphs "1" through "14", inclusive, as though set forth herein at length.

16. By contract, plaintiff was granted the right to distribute the **UFC #81** program (this includes all undercard bouts and the entire television broadcast) scheduled for **February 2, 2008** via closed circuit television and via encrypted satellite signal. Said event originated via satellite uplink and was subsequently re-transmitted to cable systems and satellite companies via satellite signal (hereinafter referred to as the "Program").

17. Pursuant to the contract, plaintiff entered into subsequent agreements with various entities in the State of Illinois, allowing them to publicly exhibit the Program to their patrons.

18. Plaintiff expended substantial monies in consideration of the aforementioned agreement to transmit the Program to those entities in the State of Illinois, which in turn, entered into

agreements with plaintiff to exhibit the Program to their patrons.

19. Upon information and belief, with full knowledge that the Program was not to be received and exhibited by entities unauthorized to do so, the defendants and/or their agents, servants, workmen or employees unlawfully intercepted, received and/or de-scrambled said satellite signal and did exhibit the Program at the above-captioned addresses at the time of its transmission willfully and for purposes of direct or indirect commercial advantage or private financial gain.

20. Upon information and belief, the defendants and/or their agents, servants, workmen and employees used an illegal satellite receiver, intercepted plaintiff's signal and/or used a device to intercept plaintiff's broadcast which originated via satellite uplink and then re-transmitted via satellite or microwave signal to various cable and satellite systems. There are multiple illegal methods of accessing programming. Splicing an additional coaxial cable line or redirecting a wireless signal, from an adjacent residence, into a business establishment, commercial misuse of cable or satellite by registering same as a residence when it is in fact, a business or taking a lawfully obtained box or satellite receiver from a private residence and into a business. Each of these methods would allow Defendants to access programming unlawfully. \* In addition, emerging technologies, such as broadband or internet broadcast as well as "slingbox" technology, which allows a consumer to literally sling programming from their personal home cable or satellite systems and into their computers, can allow commercial misuse of residential broadcasting feeds through the internet from anywhere in the world. While Plaintiff is unable to determine the manner in which Defendants obtained the programming, it is logical to conclude that Defendants must have either used an illegal satellite receiver, misrepresented their business establishment as a residence or engaged in "mirroring" by taking a legitimate receiver from their home to their business establishment in order

to intercept Plaintiff's broadcast.

21. 47 U.S.C. §605 (a) prohibits the unauthorized reception and publication or use of communications such as the transmission for which plaintiff had the distribution rights thereto.

22. By reason of the aforementioned conduct, the aforementioned defendants willfully violated 47 U.S.C. §605 (a).

23. By reason of the aforementioned defendants' violation of 47 U.S.C. §605 (a), plaintiff has a private right of action pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §605.

24. As a result of the aforementioned defendants' willful violation of 47 U.S.C. §605 (a), plaintiff is entitled to damages in the discretion of this Court, under 47 U.S.C. §605 (e)(3)(C)(i)(II) and (ii) of up to \$110,000.00 as to each defendant.

25. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §605, plaintiff is also entitled to an award of full costs, interest and reasonable attorney's fees.

## **COUNT II**

26. Plaintiff hereby incorporates paragraphs "1" through "25", inclusive, as though fully set forth herein.

27. Upon information and belief, with full knowledge that the Program was not to be received and exhibited by entities unauthorized to do so, the defendants and/or their agents, servants, workmen or employees did exhibit the Program at the above-captioned addresses at the time of its transmission willfully and for purposes of direct or indirect commercial advantage or private financial gain.

28. 47 U.S.C. §553 prohibits the unauthorized reception, interception and exhibition of any

communications service offered over a cable system such as the transmission for which plaintiff had the distribution rights thereto.

29. Upon information and belief, the defendants individually, willfully and illegally intercepted said Program when it was distributed and shown by cable television systems.

30. By reason of the aforementioned conduct, all of the aforementioned defendants willfully violated 47 U.S.C. §553, thereby giving rise to a private right of action.

31. As a result of the aforementioned defendants' violation of 47 U.S.C. §553, plaintiff is entitled to damages in an amount in the discretion of this Court, of up to \$60,000.00, plus the recovery of full costs, interest and reasonable attorney's fees.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff requests that judgment be entered in its favor and against each of the aforementioned defendants granting to plaintiff the following:

(a) Declare that defendant's unauthorized exhibition of the **February 2, 2008 UFC #81 Program**, violated the Federal Communications Act and that such violations were committed willfully and for purposes of defendants' direct or indirect commercial advantage or for private financial gain.

(b) On the first cause of action, statutory penalties in an amount in the discretion of this Court, of up to \$110,000.00 as to each defendant for their willful violation of 47 U.S.C. §605 (a);

(c) On the second cause of action, statutory penalties in an amount in the discretion of this Court, of up to \$60,000.00 as to each defendant for their violation of 47 U.S.C. §553;

(d) Attorney's fees, interest, costs of suit as to each defendant pursuant to 47 U. S.

C. § 605 (e) (3) (B) (iii) and §553 (c)(2)(C), together with such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: December 1, 2008  
Ellenville, New York

**JOE HAND PROMOTIONS, INC.**

By: /s/Julie Cohen Lonstein

JULIE COHEN LONSTEIN, ESQ.

Attorney for Plaintiff

Bar Roll No. 90784647

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*Our File No. 08-2IL-N02V*